

Trapping in Wyoming

An Overview of Statutes, Regulations and Public Involvement



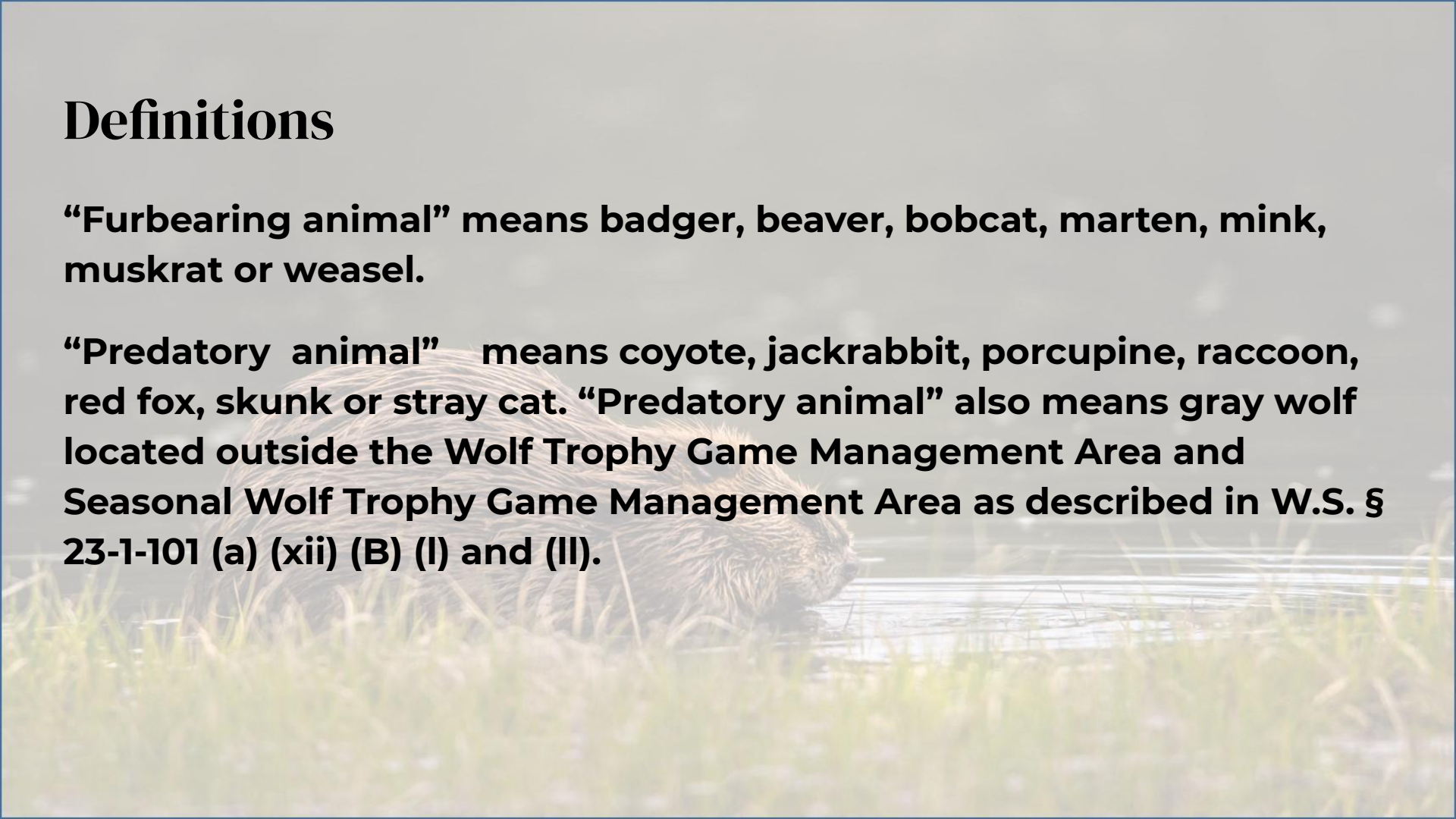
Recent Events

- **Petitions to the Commission at the April Commission Meeting**
 - **Wyoming Untrapped and WY Trap FREE-Mont County**
 - **Asked Commission to open Chapter 4 prior to 2022**
- **Department Committee Formed**
 - **Develop and implement a deliberate and information-based process to inform the Commission on trapping related matters identified during the April 2020 meeting. The presentation should also include past efforts by the Department and comments, concerns and opportunities learned from contacts with a broad group of current stakeholders.**
 - **Carefully consider all relevant information and compile meaningful information to help inform the Commission as they further deliberate any potential action pertaining to Chapter 4.**
 - **Members: Aaron Kerr, Jim Seeman, Jon Stephens, Erika Peckham, Emily Gates, Rene Schell, Ken Mills, Jason Hunter**

Definitions

“Furbearing animal” means badger, beaver, bobcat, marten, mink, muskrat or weasel.

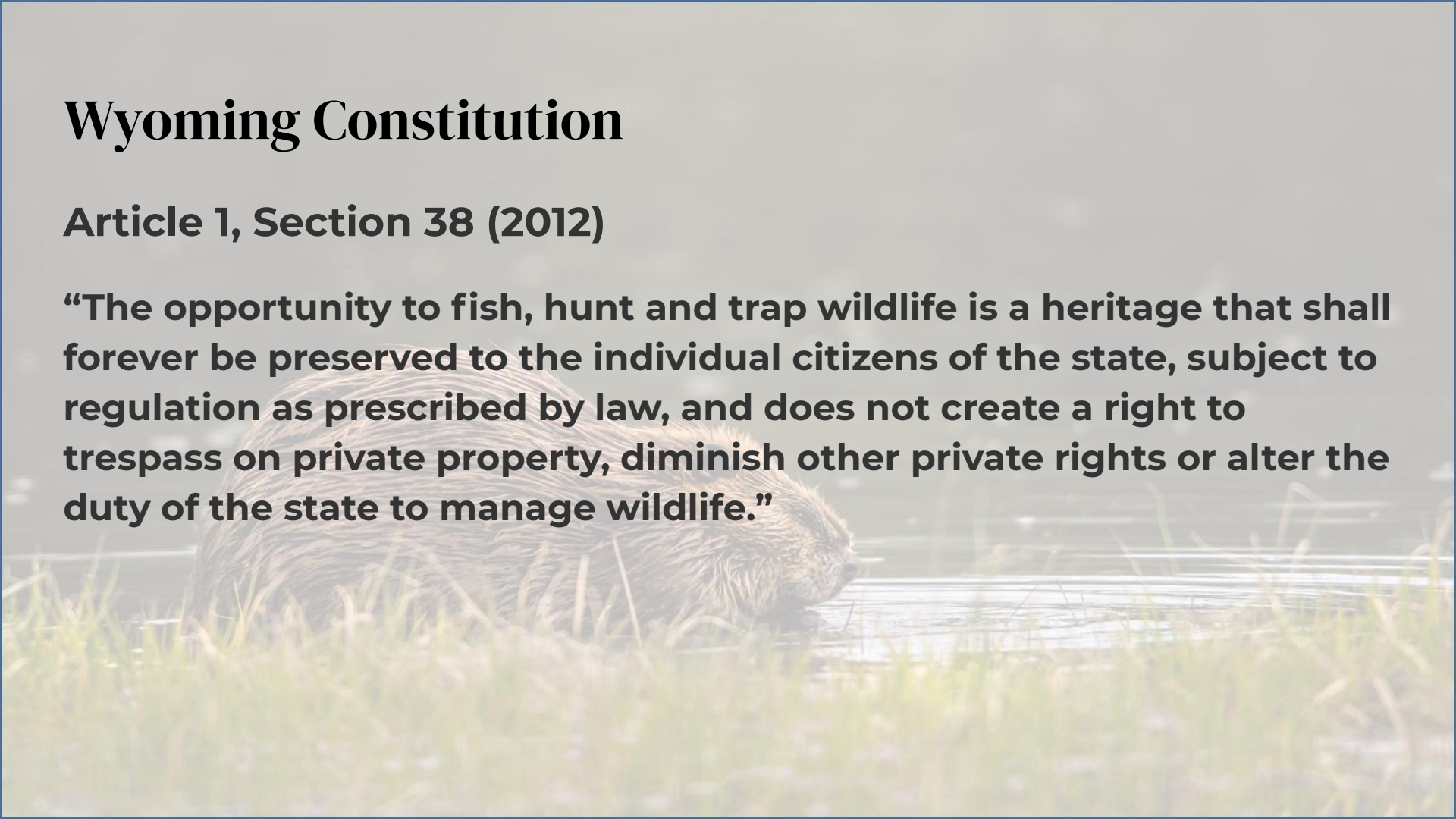
“Predatory animal” means coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, skunk or stray cat. “Predatory animal” also means gray wolf located outside the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area and Seasonal Wolf Trophy Game Management Area as described in W.S. § 23-1-101 (a) (xii) (B) (I) and (II).

A background image of a beaver in a pond, partially obscured by tall grass in the foreground. The beaver is visible in the middle ground, near the water's edge.

Wyoming Constitution

Article 1, Section 38 (2012)

“The opportunity to fish, hunt and trap wildlife is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state, subject to regulation as prescribed by law, and does not create a right to trespass on private property, diminish other private rights or alter the duty of the state to manage wildlife.”

A background image of a beaver in a field. The beaver is positioned in the center-left, facing right, with its head lowered. It has brown, shaggy fur. The field is filled with tall, green grass in the foreground and middle ground. In the background, there is a body of water and some trees under a hazy sky. The entire image has a semi-transparent grey overlay to make the text legible.

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

- **W.S. 23-2-303, review of changes 2001-present**
 - **2001**
 - Added snares to tagging requirement
 - Allows for trap ID # to be issued by Department and used instead of name/address
 - Added language making it illegal to set traps/snares within 30 ft of exposed bait > 5lbs
 - Added definition of exposed bait
 - Added snare requirements
 - 295lb breakaway
 - Maximum 12 inch loop diameter
 - 72 hour check period excluding snares and quick kill body traps
 - Wildlife caught shall be removed upon discovery

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

- **2004**
 - Made tampering/removing a legal trap/snare or releasing furbearers/predators from legal traps/snares illegal.
- **2009 - Department LD1 Project**
 - Added language allowing the Commission to regulate trap/snare requirements to establish specifications for snares, breakaway weights, location of breakaway devices, snare loop size and anchors for trapping and snaring of furbearers and predatory animals. (requires consultation with other affected entities)
 - Removed all statutory language related to above
 - Added once per week check period for snares and quick kill body traps

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

- **Commission Regulation CH 4, 1994 - present**
 - **1994-97**
 - **Areas closed to the trapping of all species**
 - **Grand Teton NP**
 - **Closed to all trapping**
 - **National ELk Refuge**
 - **Closed to all trapping**
 - **JDR Memorial Parkway**
 - **Leghold traps and snares prohibited**
 - **Red Canyon Elk Winter Range**
 - **Closed to all trapping December 1-April 30**
 - **Medicine Bow River from Ranger Station to Bow River Campground**
 - **Closed to all trapping**

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

○ 1997-98

- Changed from trapping of all species closures to closed to furbearer trapping/closed to all legholds and snares and removed Red Canyon and Medicine Bow River from any type of closure.
- Closed to furbearer trapping
 - Grand Teton NP
 - National Elk Refuge
- Added Rawhide, Springer, and Table Mountain WHMAs to areas closed to furbearer trapping from October 1-January 31.
- Closed to all leghold traps and snares
 - JDR Memorial Parkway

○ 2002-03

- “Quick Kill Body Grip Trap” and “Trap Identification Number” added to definitions and the word “snare” added to the definition of Trapping.
- Added Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area to areas closed to use of leghold traps and snares
- Added trap ID# use and requirements to obtain a trap ID#

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

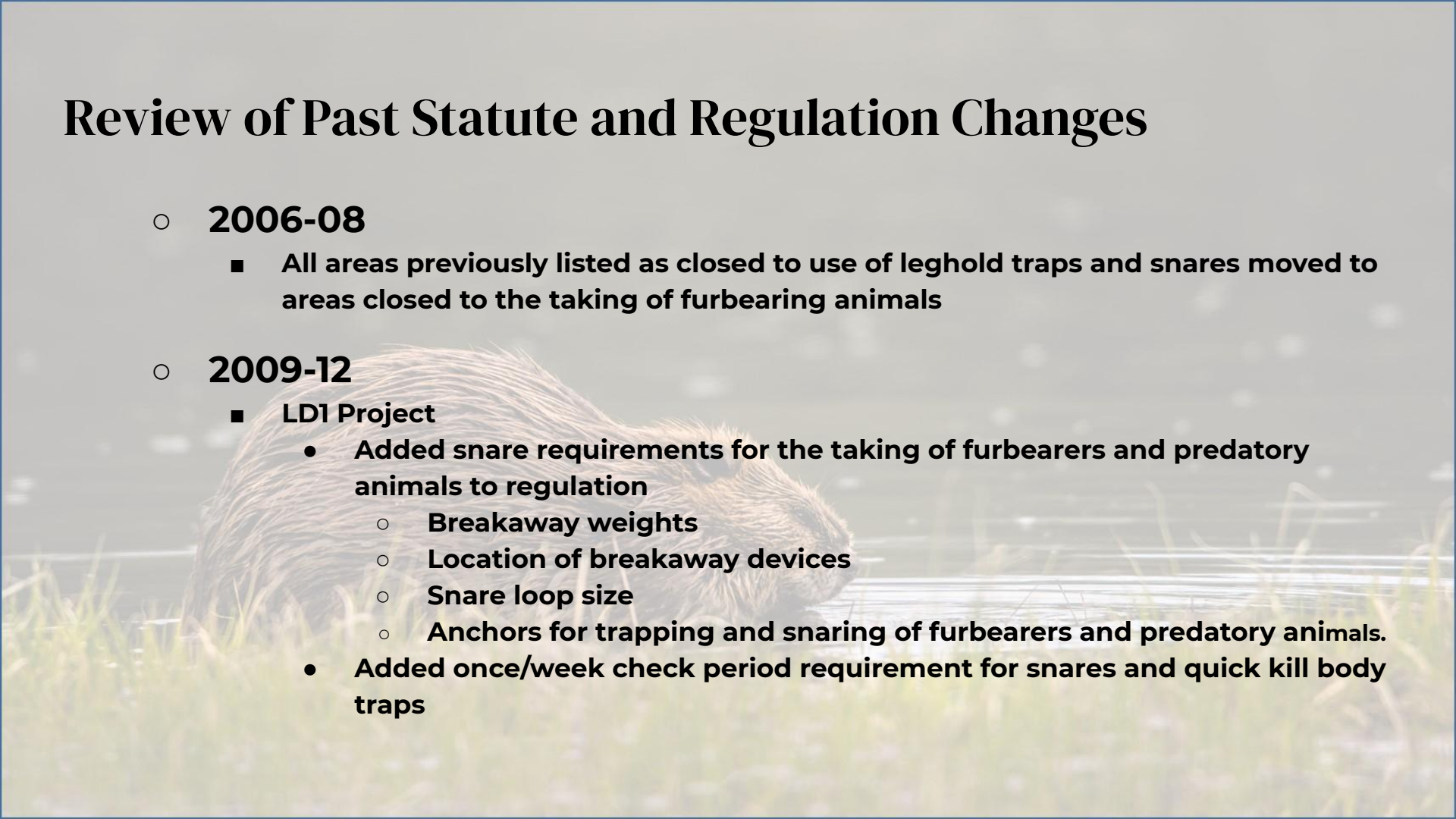
- **2006-08**

- All areas previously listed as closed to use of leghold traps and snares moved to areas closed to the taking of furbearing animals

- **2009-12**

- **LD1 Project**

- Added snare requirements for the taking of furbearers and predatory animals to regulation
 - Breakaway weights
 - Location of breakaway devices
 - Snare loop size
 - Anchors for trapping and snaring of furbearers and predatory animals.
- Added once/week check period requirement for snares and quick kill body traps



Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

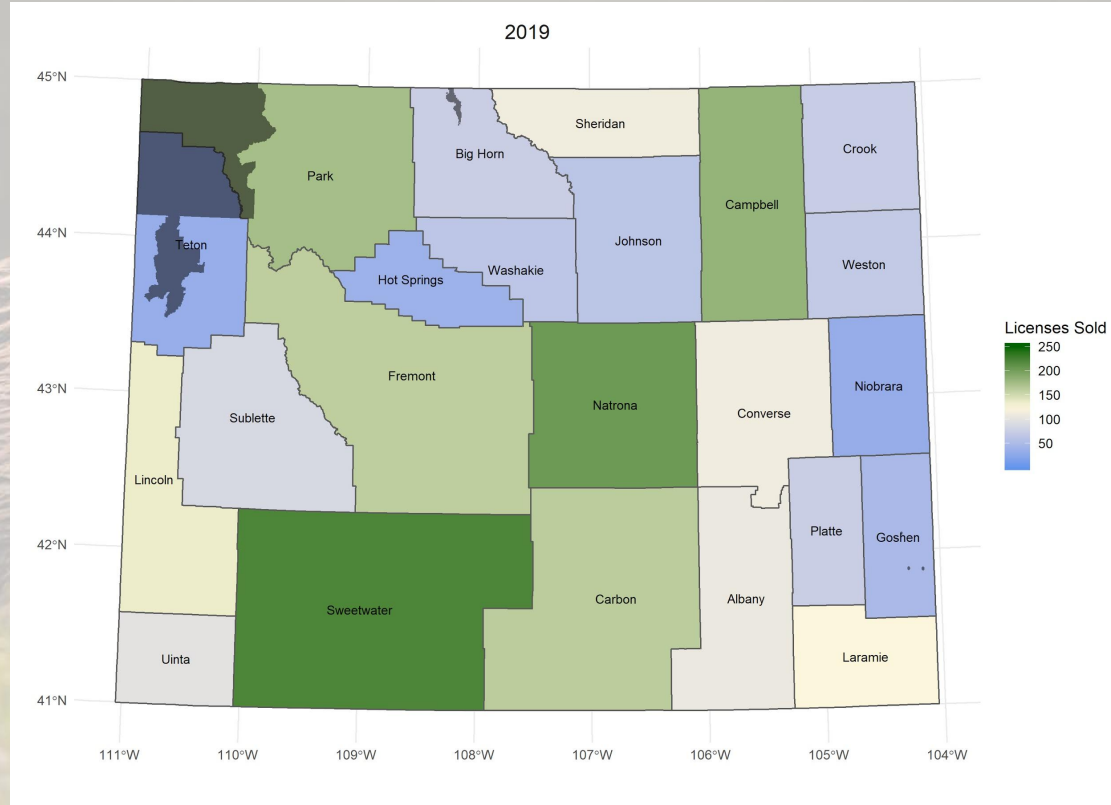
- **2012-14**
 - “Live Trap” added to definitions
 - Reformatted snare requirements and check period section
- **2016-19**
 - Added definitions of “pet” and “tamper”
 - 330 conibear removed from public land use and must be partially submerged
 - Addition of Section 11 (e) to allow the release of pets and livestock from traps
- **2019-current**
 - 12 defined terms
 - Removal of some LQ Beaver trapping areas and addition of some areas closed to beaver trapping

Furbearer License Sales and Harvest Information

- **License Sales**
 - 2001- 1097 licenses sold
 - 34 Nonresident
 - 2010- 1869 licenses sold
 - 43 Nonresident
 - 2019- 2498 licenses sold
 - 47 Nonresident



Furbearer Licenses Sold in 2019 by Wyoming County



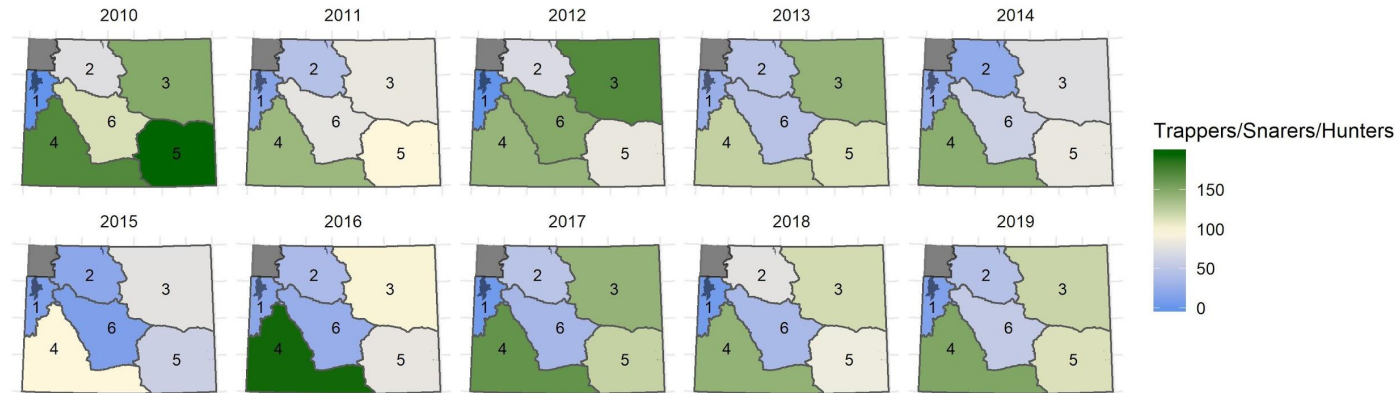
Harvest Information

- **Furbearers harvested 2010 / 2019**
 - **Totals 10,788 / 7,404**
 - **Trapped 9,861 / 6,682**
 - **Snared 179 / 205**
 - **Firearm 748 / 517**



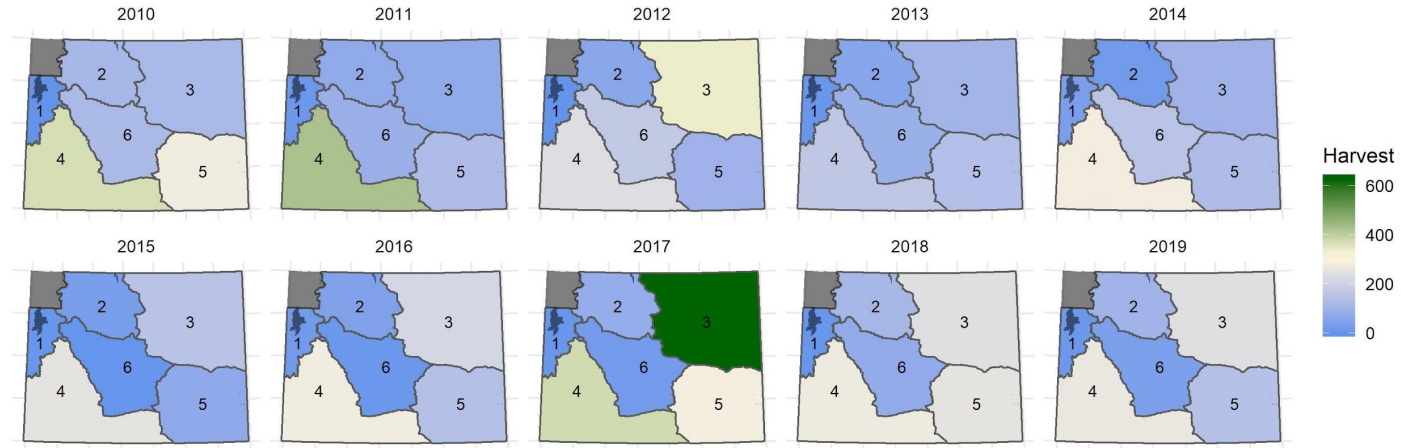
Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Badger

Badger



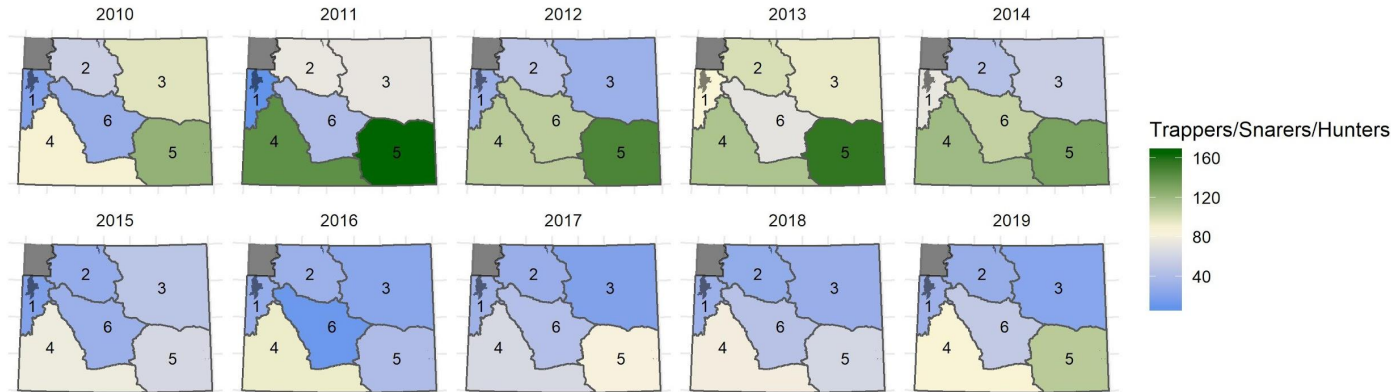
Harvest by Year and Management Area - Badger

Badger



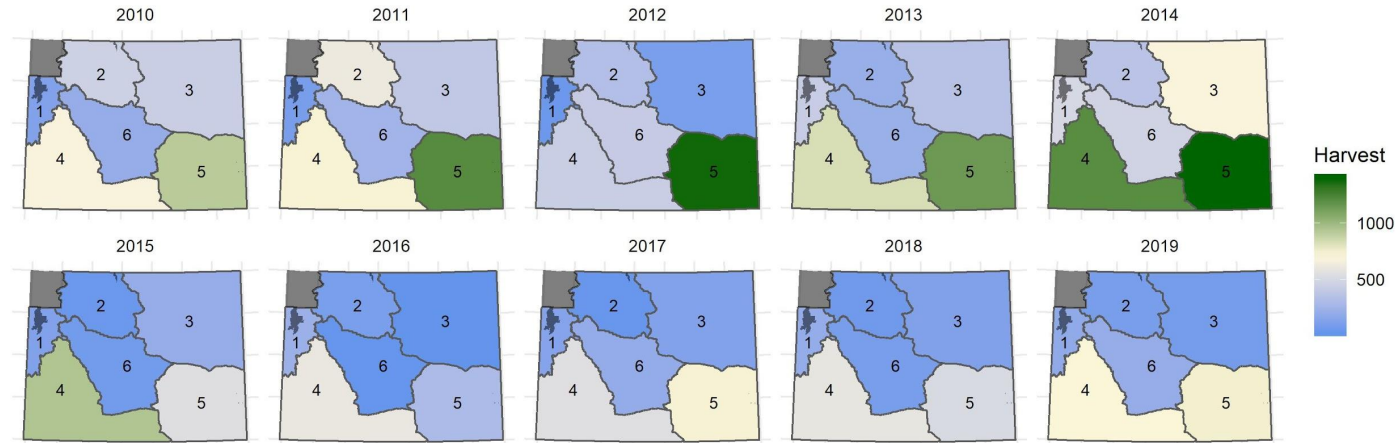
Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Beaver

Beaver



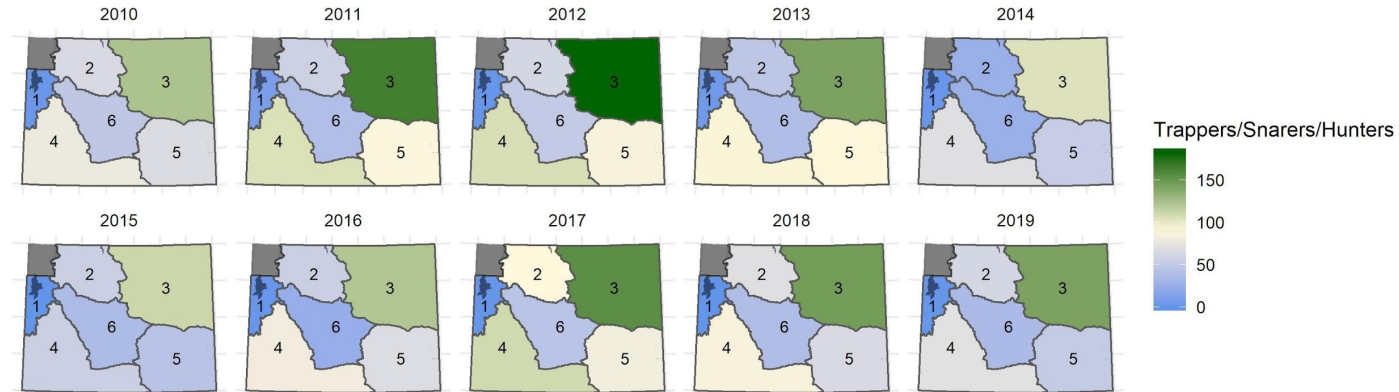
Harvest by Year and Management Area - Beaver

Beaver



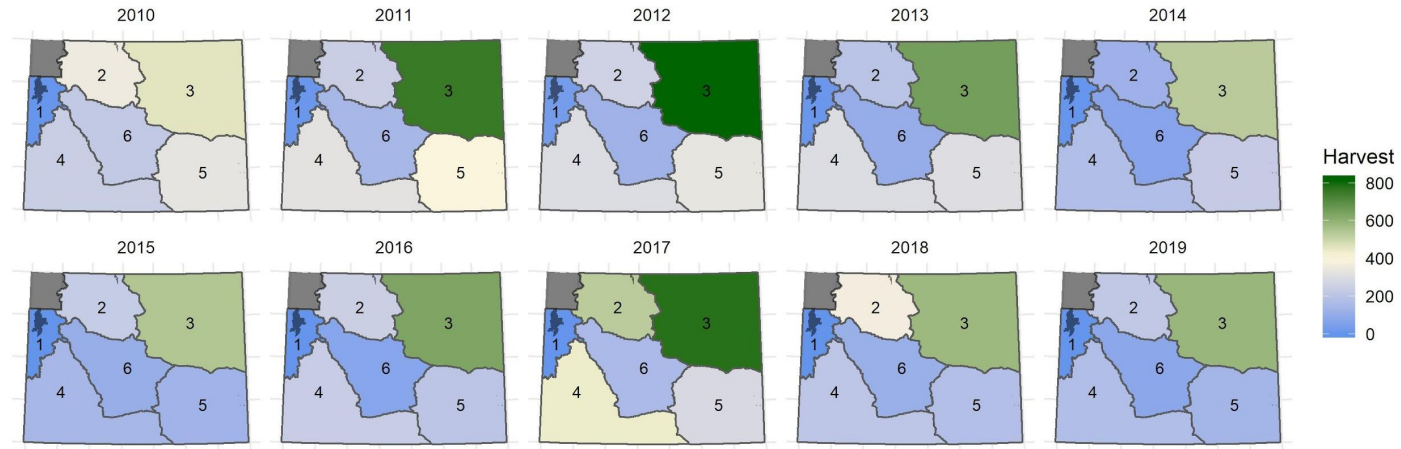
Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Bobcat

Bobcat

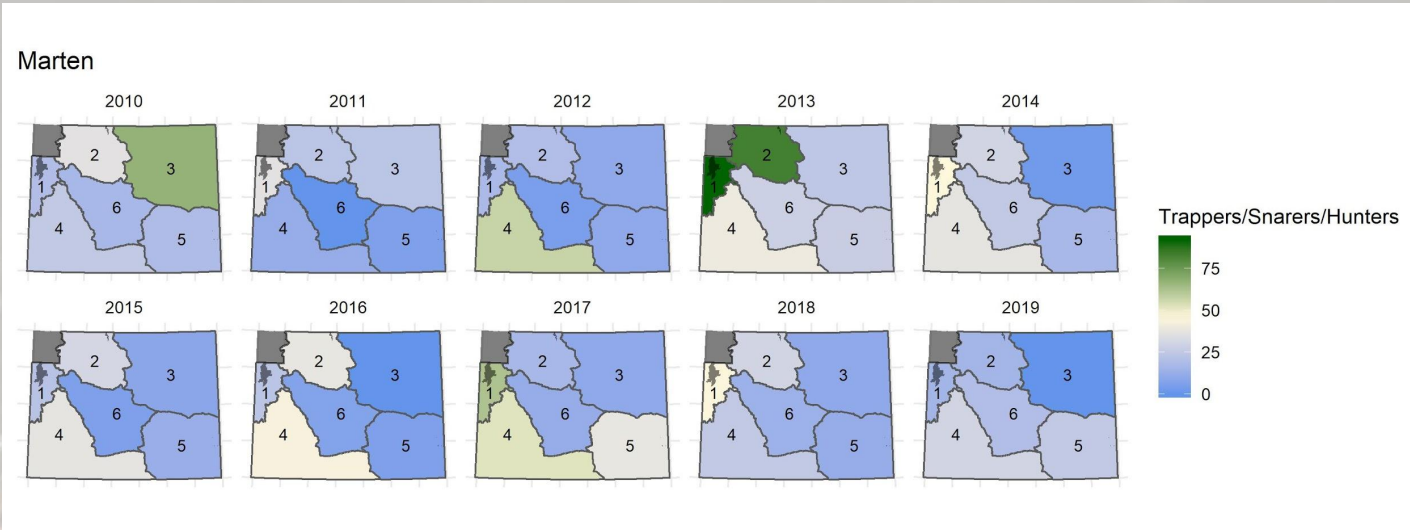


Harvest by Year and Management Area - Bobcat

Bobcat

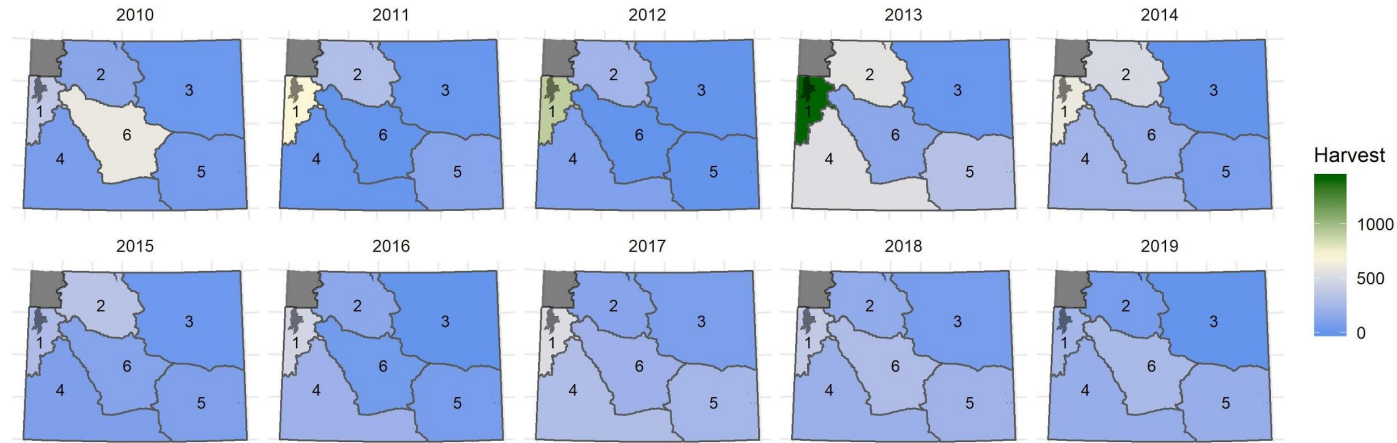


Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Marten



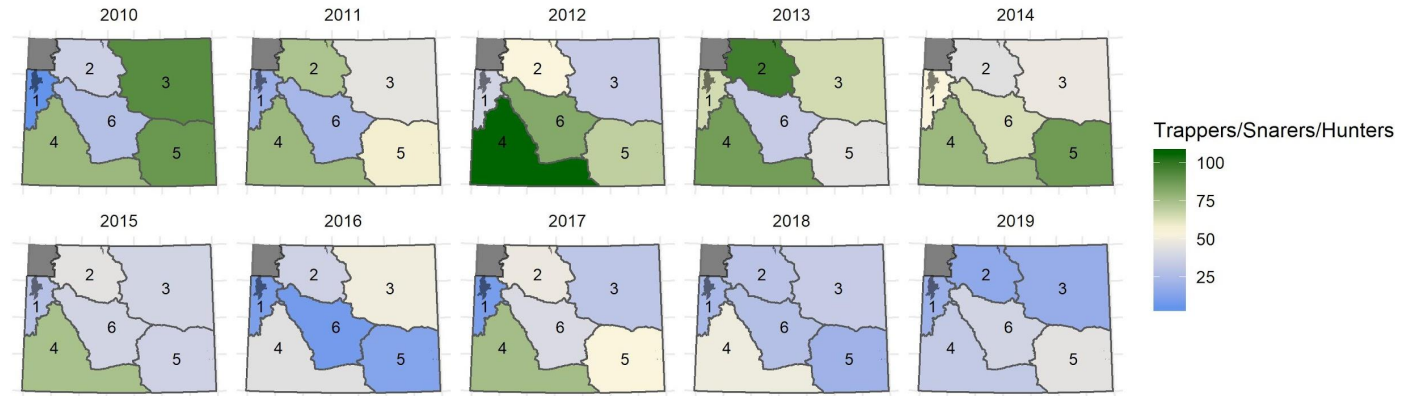
Harvest by Year and Management Area - Marten

Marten



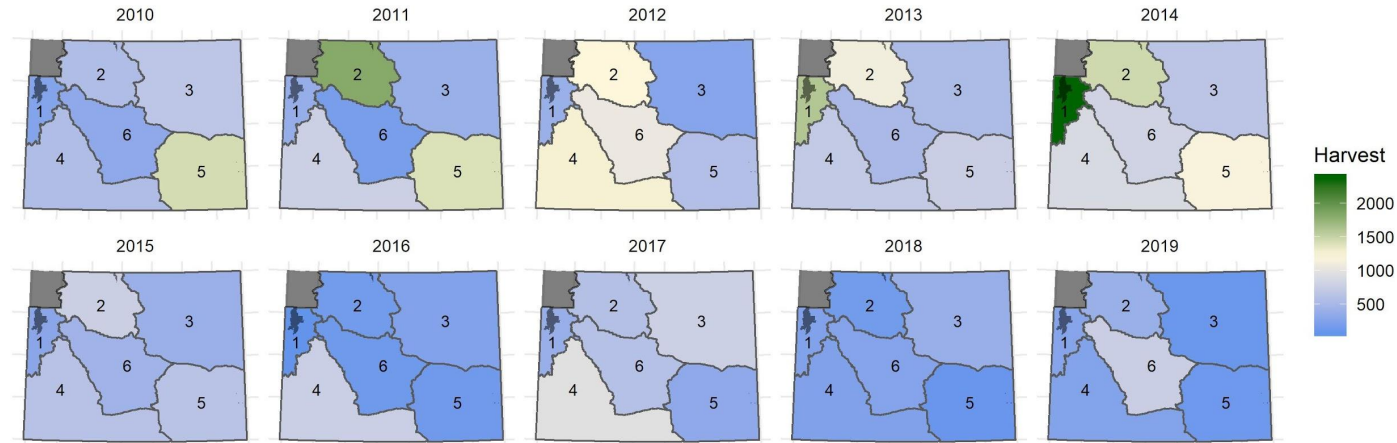
Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Muskrat

Muskrat



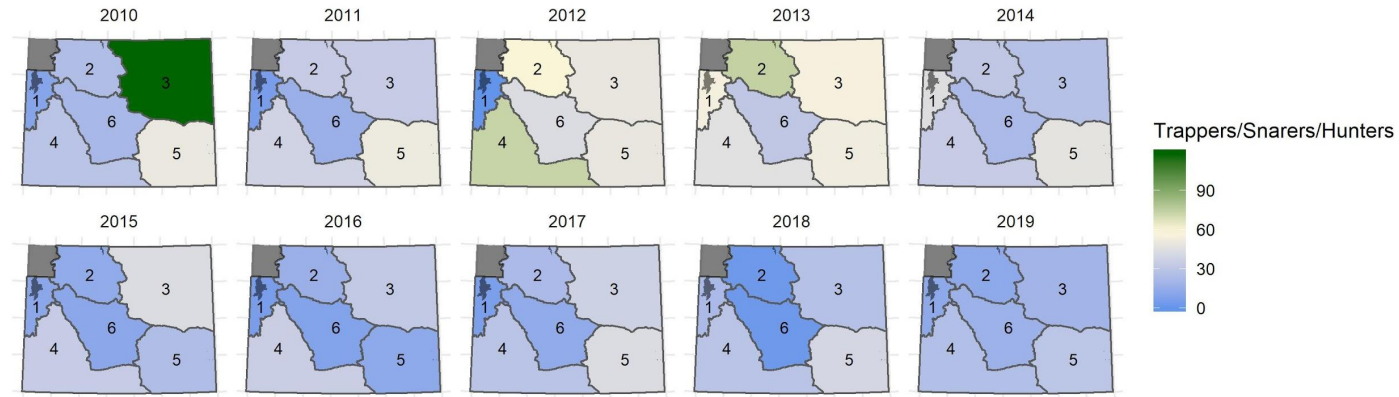
Harvest by Year and Management Area - Muskrat

Muskrat



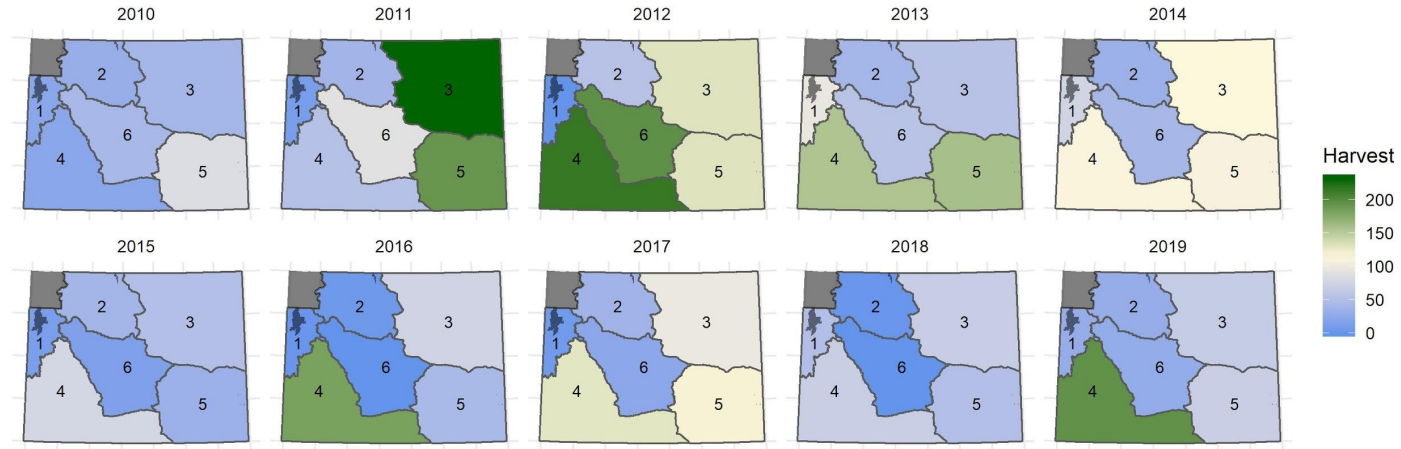
Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Mink

Mink

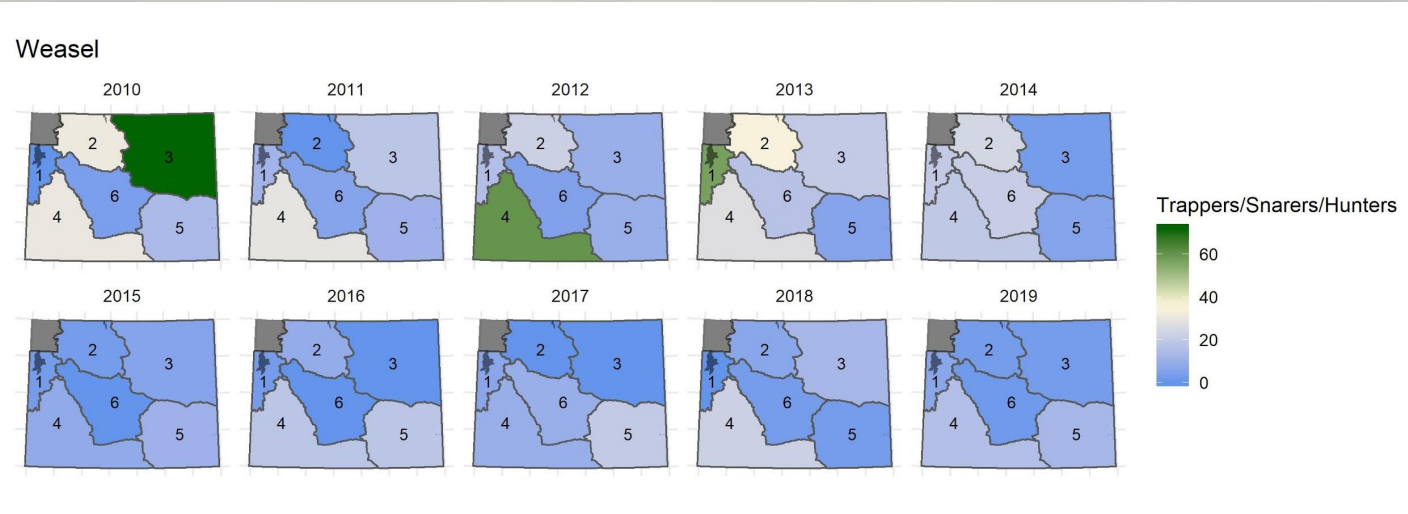


Harvest by Year and Management Area - Mink

Mink

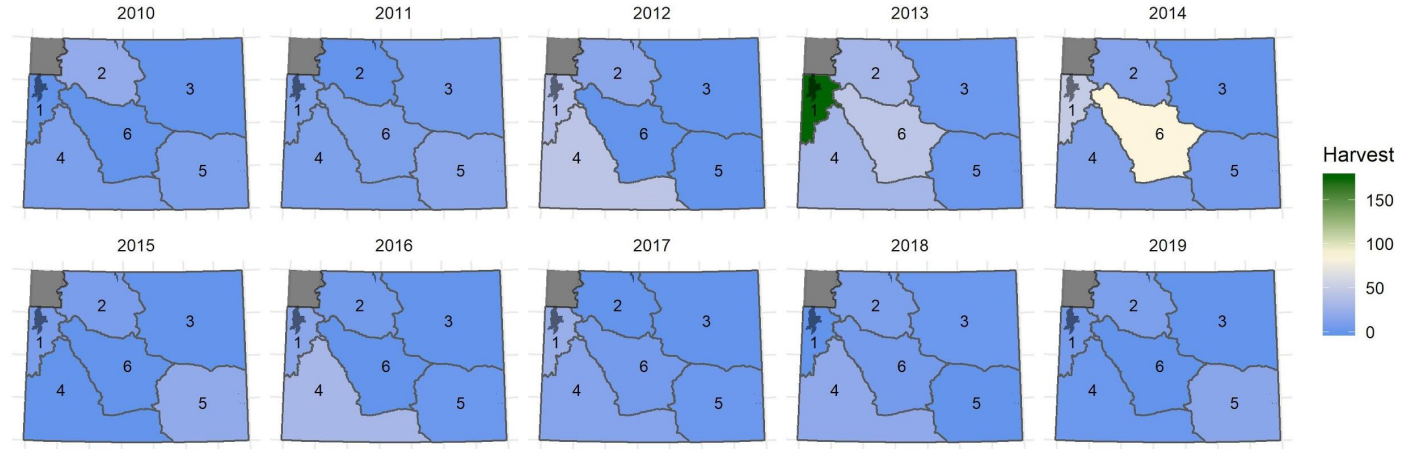


Trappers/Hunters by Year and Management Area - Weasel



Harvest by Year and Management Area - Weasel

Weasel



Surrounding State Regulations

CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT

- **Trapper education required:** CO & ID (MT for wolves only)
- **Setbacks:** CO, ID, MT, NE - distance varies 10 - 1,000 feet
 - Trails, roads/highways, dwellings, feedlots, livestock road crossings, campgrounds/rec. sites
- **Closures for recreation:** CO, ID, MT, NE, SD, **WY**
 - Public ski area, residential rec. area, state game refuges/wildlife areas, some bird hunting areas
- **Trap signs recommended** - ID, CO
- **Trap checks:** CO, NE - 24 hrs; SD east - 48 hrs; ID, SD west - 72 hrs; (**WY**- 72 hrs, leghold and live traps, Once/week snares and quick-kill traps); UT - 48 hrs non-lethal and 96 hrs lethal trap check; MT - 48 hours recommended (required for bobcat sets); ND - none

Surrounding State Regulations

CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT

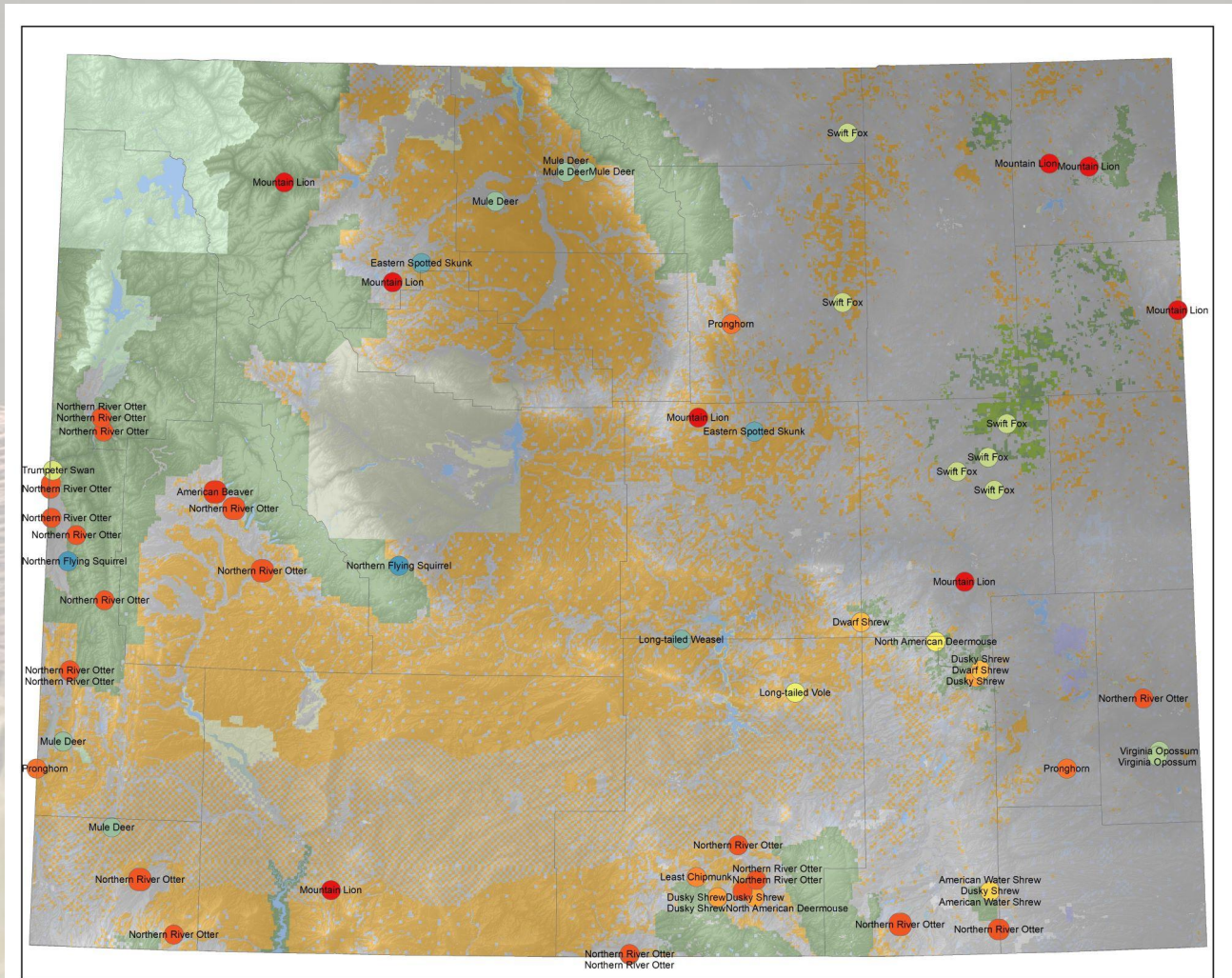
- **Report non-targets required:**

- MT - All non-targets
- UT - All protected species
- CO, ID, ND, SD - Dead furbearers/wildlife/protected species
- NE - None
- **WY** - Injured or dead game animals/raptors/furbearers out of season

- **Trap types allowed:**

- ID, MT, ND, NE, UT, **WY**- All types with some restrictions to placement/types of quick kill body traps, lock type/breakaway for snares
- CO - Only live traps, footholds on private lands with strict conditions
- SD - Spring-powered snares banned

Information



WI example of Reporting Form

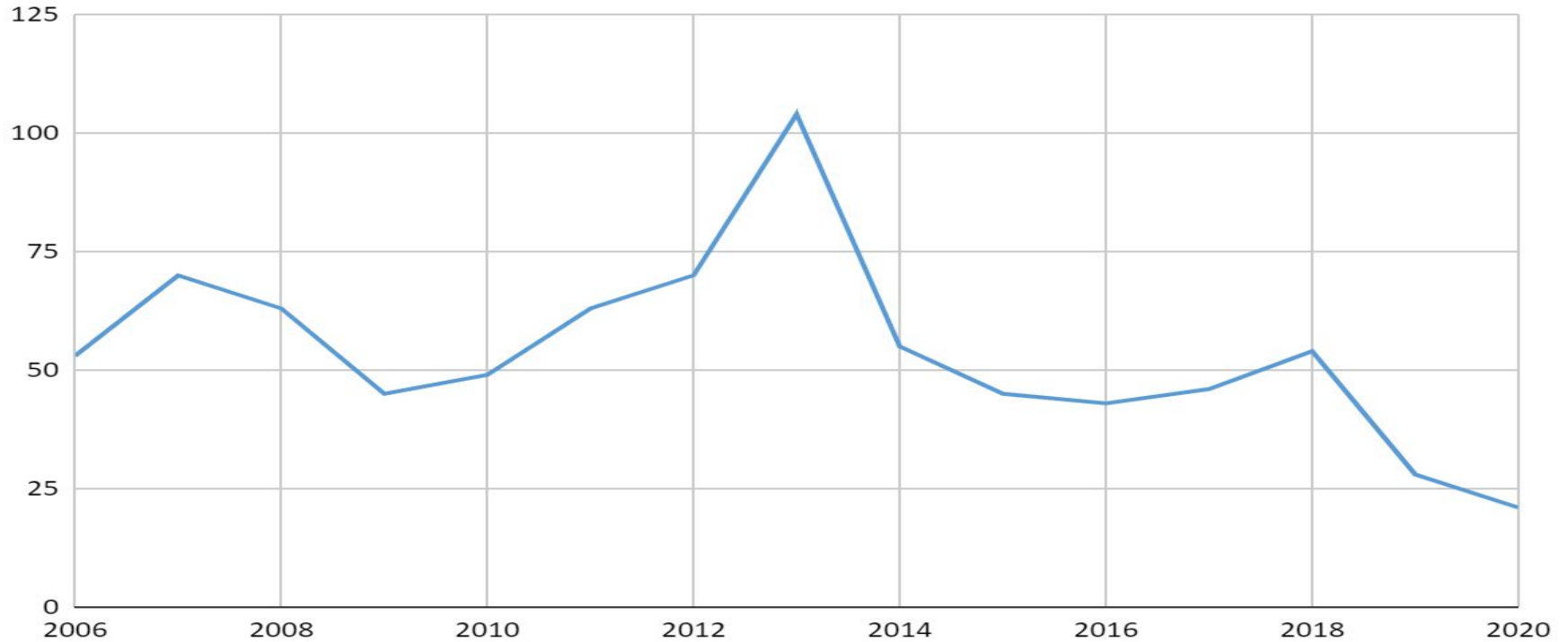
Save... Print... Submit by Email... Clear Data			
State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources dnr.wi.gov		Trap Incident Report Form 4100-210 (R 6/17) Page 1 of 2	
Conservation Warden's Name _____		Date Complaint Received _____ Incident Date _____	
COMPLAINANT			
Complainant's Name _____			
Street or Route _____		City _____	State _____ ZIP Code _____
Person making the complaint was a: (select one)			
<input type="radio"/> Landowner <input type="radio"/> Self Report <input type="radio"/> Passerby <input type="radio"/> Pet Owner			
<input type="radio"/> Trapper <input type="radio"/> Other Trapper <input type="radio"/> Hunter <input type="radio"/> Other _____			
LOCATION			
County _____		Nearest Town, City, or Village _____	
Ownership of land where incident occurred: (select one)			
<input type="radio"/> Public (including public road right-of-way)			
<input type="radio"/> Private land with public access (industrial forest, MFL, utility, private road right-of-way, etc.)			
<input type="radio"/> Private Land			
<input type="radio"/> Unknown			
If private land, landowner permission was granted to: (select one)			
<input type="radio"/> Trapper			
<input type="radio"/> Pet Owner			
<input type="radio"/> Both			
<input type="radio"/> Neither			
TRAP DETAILS			
Trapper's Name _____		DNR Customer I.D. # _____	
Street or Route _____		City _____	State _____ ZIP Code _____
Trap type:		Set type:	
<input type="radio"/> Foothold		<input type="radio"/> Dryland:	
<input type="radio"/> Body-grip		<input type="radio"/> Blind or Trail <input type="radio"/> Dirt-hole	
<input type="radio"/> Cable Restraint		<input type="radio"/> Cubby or Enclosed <input type="radio"/> Other _____	
<input type="radio"/> Snare		<input type="radio"/> Water set:	
<input type="radio"/> Enclosed Trigger		<input type="radio"/> Drowning <input type="radio"/> Non-drowning	
<input type="radio"/> Other _____			
If a cubby set, the trap was: (select all that apply and fill in measurements)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Recessed in the enclosure			
• How far was the trap trigger recessed? _____ inches			
• Cubby construction materials (plastic pail, PVC pipe, etc.) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Made with a restricted entry-way			
• Entry-way dimensions: width _____ in. X height _____ in.			
Trap Size _____			
Brand _____			
Trap Location: (select all that apply)		Bait type used: (select one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Right-of-Way		<input type="radio"/> Meat/animal parts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail		<input type="radio"/> Fish related	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest		<input type="radio"/> Sweet bait	
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/Pasture		<input type="radio"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Body			
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh / Wetland		Did the trapper complete trapper education?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<input type="radio"/> Yes – Year _____	
		<input type="radio"/> No – Why not? _____	

Complainant's Name _____ Incident Date _____		Trap Incident Report Form 4100-210 (R 6/17) Page 2 of 2	
ANIMAL DETAILS		Ownership of animal: (select one using your best judgement)	
Type of animal involved:		<input type="radio"/> Feral	
<input type="radio"/> Hunting Dog		<input type="radio"/> Abandoned	
• Breed _____		<input type="radio"/> Owned but uncontrolled	
• Type of hunting _____		<input type="radio"/> Owned and cared for	
<input type="radio"/> Non-hunting Dog			
<input type="radio"/> Cat		If a domestic animal, was it: (select all that apply)	
<input type="radio"/> Livestock		<input type="checkbox"/> On a leash <input type="checkbox"/> Uncontrolled, but used in a hunting activity	
<input type="radio"/> Wildlife		<input type="checkbox"/> Within sight contact <input type="checkbox"/> Uncontrolled	
<input type="radio"/> Other _____			
Extent of injury to trapped animal: (select all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Died as a result of trap injuries			
<input type="checkbox"/> Required veterinary care			
• Name and location of vet facility _____			
• Describe injury _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Experienced permanent injury – Describe _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> No permanent damage			
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above			
ADDITIONAL DETAILS / COMMENTS			
Media Attention:		Citations were or could have been issued for violations (including non-DNR) to:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Radio		<input type="checkbox"/> Trapper – list violations: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Television			
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Outlet _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Owner – list violations: _____	
Reporter name _____			
Brief summary of incident: _____			
Additional comments: _____			
Submit to: Warden Supervisor Nathan Kroepin Fitchburg Service Center 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711			
Submit by Email			

Trapping Violations 2006-2020

Violation Description	Warnings	Citations	NoActions	Total
TAKE FURBEARER ANIMAL WITHOUT A LICENSE	32	32	2	66
FAIL TO CHECK TRAPS WITHIN 72 HOURS EXCEPT CONIBEAR TRAPS	62	95	17	174
FAILURE TO TAG LEGHOLD TRAPS OR SNARES	94	78	53	225
USE GAME PARTS FOR BAIT	29	28	8	65
TAKE GAME ANIMAL WITH PIT- TRAP- ETC.	8	5	3	16
FAIL TO TAG BOBCAT PELT	21	22	1	44
FALSE STATEMENT TO PROCURE TRAP- FURBEARER LICENSE	4	12	0	16
TAKE FURBEARER OUT OF SEASON	8	25	3	36
FAIL TO CHECK BODY-GRIP/SNARE TRAP AT LEAST ONCE EACH WEEK	10	17	3	30
SET TRAP OR SNARE WITHIN 30' OF EXPOSED BAIT OVER 5 LBS. IN WEIGHT	17	19	3	39
SNARE WITHOUT A BREAK-AWAY LOCK	13	12	5	30
SNARE WITH BREAK-AWAY LOCK OVER 295 LBS.	7	0	1	8
SNARE SET WITH LOOP IN EXCESS OF 12"	6	2	0	8
FAIL TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN ANY TRAP/SNARE	8	3	3	14
FAIL TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT NON-TARGET WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN TRAP/SNARE	12	28	3	43
VIOLATION OF SMALL GAME/FURBEARER REGULATIONS NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE	10	12	1	23
Totals	341	390	106	837

Total Trapping Violations by Year 2006-2020



Trapping Violations

- **2006-2020**

- **837 violations** (390 citations, 341 warnings, 106 unknown suspects)
- **Total Fines - \$78,931**
- **Total Restitution - \$2,541**
- **Total License Suspensions - 85 years**

- **Other info (2006-2020)**

- **Dogs chasing deer-** 465 violations (233 citations, 205 warnings, 27 unknown suspect)
- **Unlawful tampering or removal of trap or snare -** 42 violations (19 citations, 11 warnings, 12 unknown suspect)
- **Unlawful release/removal of furbearer/predator from trap or snare -** 8 violations (2 citations, 4 warnings, 2 unknown)

Trapping Best Management Practices & Trapper Education

**All committee
members have taken
the online AFWA North
American Trapper
Education course**

Bryant White-AFWA



❖ Bryant White

❖ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (2002)

❖ Program Manager for Trapping Policy

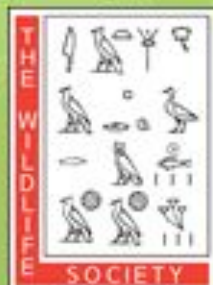
❖ Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States Program

❖ Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution





ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES



Best Management Practices for Trapping in the US



Broad Support from Professional Organizations for Regulated Trapping

- The Wildlife Society
 - The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians
 - The American Veterinary Medical Association
 - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
-
- Support the use of trapping in wildlife management
 - Support the development and use of BMPs

Brief History of BMPs

- Some State Fish and Wildlife agencies were losing their ability to manage furbearers through trapping programs
 - Massachusetts
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Washington
 - Arizona
- European Union Regulation (1991)

Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States

- Project Objectives:
 - Improve the welfare of animals captured in traps, improve trap safety, selectivity and efficiency.
 - Enhance the awareness and understanding of modern regulated trapping
 - Sustain regulated trapping as a wildlife management technique

BMPs – Project Administration

- Furbearer Conservation Technical Work Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - State Wildlife Agencies
 - Federal Wildlife Agencies
 - Tribal Agencies
 - Trapper Associations



Primary Focus



- Designed to test traps that are commonly used and modifications



- Testing focus:
 - Live Restraint (foothold, foot encapsulating, cage/box, cable restraints)
 - Lethal Systems (bodygrip traps, killing snares)





BMP Development– 5 Criteria for Trap Evaluation

1. Animal Welfare
 - ISO 10990-4: 1999 (E)
 - Part 5: Methods for testing restraining traps
 - Part 4: Methods for testing killing-trap systems used on land or underwater
2. Safety
3. Selectivity
4. Efficiency
5. Practicality

BMPs – 23 Species

American Marten
American Badger
Arctic Fox
Beaver
Bobcat
Coyote (East/West)
Canada Lynx
Fisher
Gray Fox
Gray Wolf
Kit fox

Mink
Muskrat
Nutria
Opossum
Raccoon
Red Fox
Ringtail
River Otter
Skunk
Swift Fox
Weasels
Wolverine



BMPs – Development

- BMP Ad hoc groups
 - Separate group for each of twenty-three species
 - Group participants include agency biologists, veterinarians, and trapping experts

BMP Development

- Review past research
- Identify research priorities – furbearer species/trap types (National Ownership and Use of Traps by Trappers Survey)
- Conduct field projects
- Necropsy animals (SCWDS/University of Wyoming/NWRC)
- Analyze field and lab data
- Compare performance to the international standard
- Synthesize data and experiences to produce trapping BMPs



BMP Projects

- 1997-2020
 - Over 600 trap types tested
 - 450 trapping field projects
 - 1,500 volunteer trappers & technicians
 - 100 agency biologist
 - ~400,000 trap nights
 - All 5 U.S. regions and 41 states



What is a Trapping BMP?

- Provides basic biological information about the species
- Details trapping devices that meet the BMP criteria/International Standards
- Details techniques used during testing



BMPs - Use and Intent

- Trapping BMPs are meant to be implemented in a voluntary, education and promotion-based approach
- BMPs for trapping are meant to be a supplement to trapper education

On-line Trapper Education Course

<http://conservationlearning.org>


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[Read More](#)

MGT



MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM


2009 - 2010 - 2011

A unit of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Management Assistance Team is a small, high performance team funded by various state conservation funds and established to help the vast number of technology transfer needs for non wildlife agency professionals with non biological aspects of agency work. The MAT team is passionate about helping state fish and wildlife agencies attain success.

[Contact Us...](#)

The future leader of the Management Assistance Team's online offerings.


OTW



OTW

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies represents nearly 100 state fish and wildlife agencies in wildlife law, science, species management and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the public interest. Working together, the association's member agencies are ensuring that North American fish and wildlife management has a clear and consistent voice.

North American Trapper Education Program



North American Trapper Education Course

Learn and share trap knowledge.

The purpose of the Trapper Education Program is to help individuals throughout the U.S. to pass the knowledge, skills, attitude, and judgment to positively and responsibly trap. Achieving success for the many benefits it provides. Start with your state agency to learn about additional requirements that may apply.

[Read or Order Course](#)

Education and Outreach Workshops

- More than 50 "Trapping Matters" workshops held throughout the United States
- Trained over 6000 wildlife professionals from all agency levels
- Trained hunter/trapper education instructors in how to use the BMP material
- Explain importance of trapping in wildlife management, research, public health and safety issues, disease surveillance and endangered species management
- Explain modern regulated trapping and Best Management Practices



BMP Delivery



- BMP documents on the web at:
 - <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/furbearer-management>
 - <http://furbearermanagement.com>
- State trapper education programs
- State and national trapper meetings
- State, national and international scientific meetings

BMP Knowledge

- BMPs can help your agency gain and/or maintain public support for regulated trapping
- Public generally not aware about trap research and improvements to animal welfare
- BUT, numerous studies have shown that the public is more supportive of regulated trapping when informed that efforts are being made to improve animal welfare

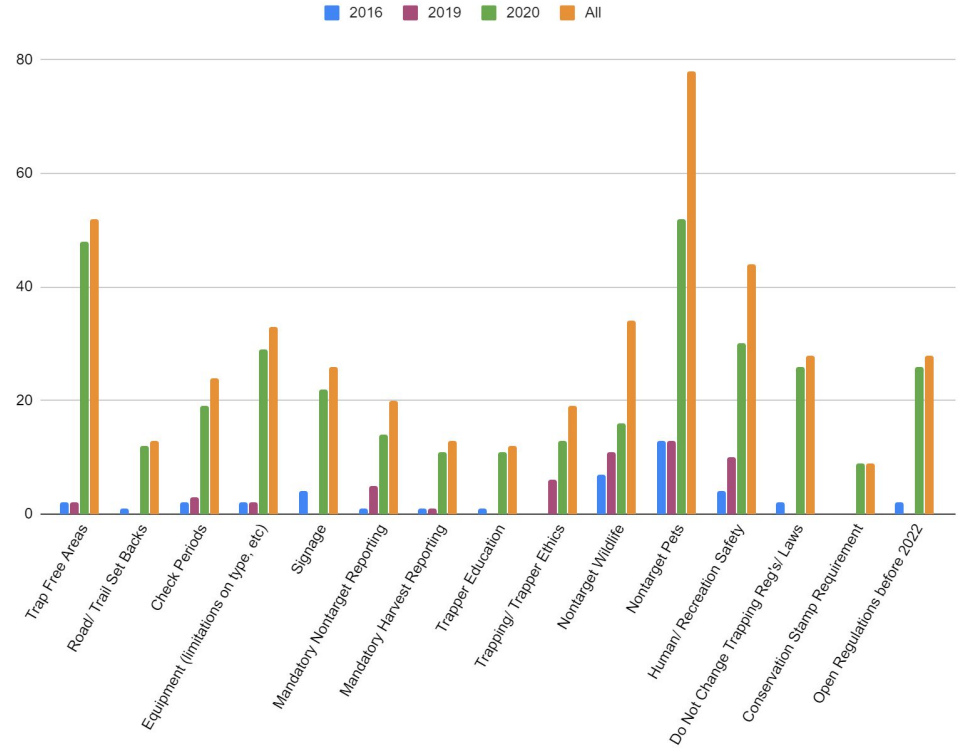
Questions?



Public Engagement

- **Public Comment Summary**
 - **2016-present**

Comment Themes by Year



Other Engagement Efforts

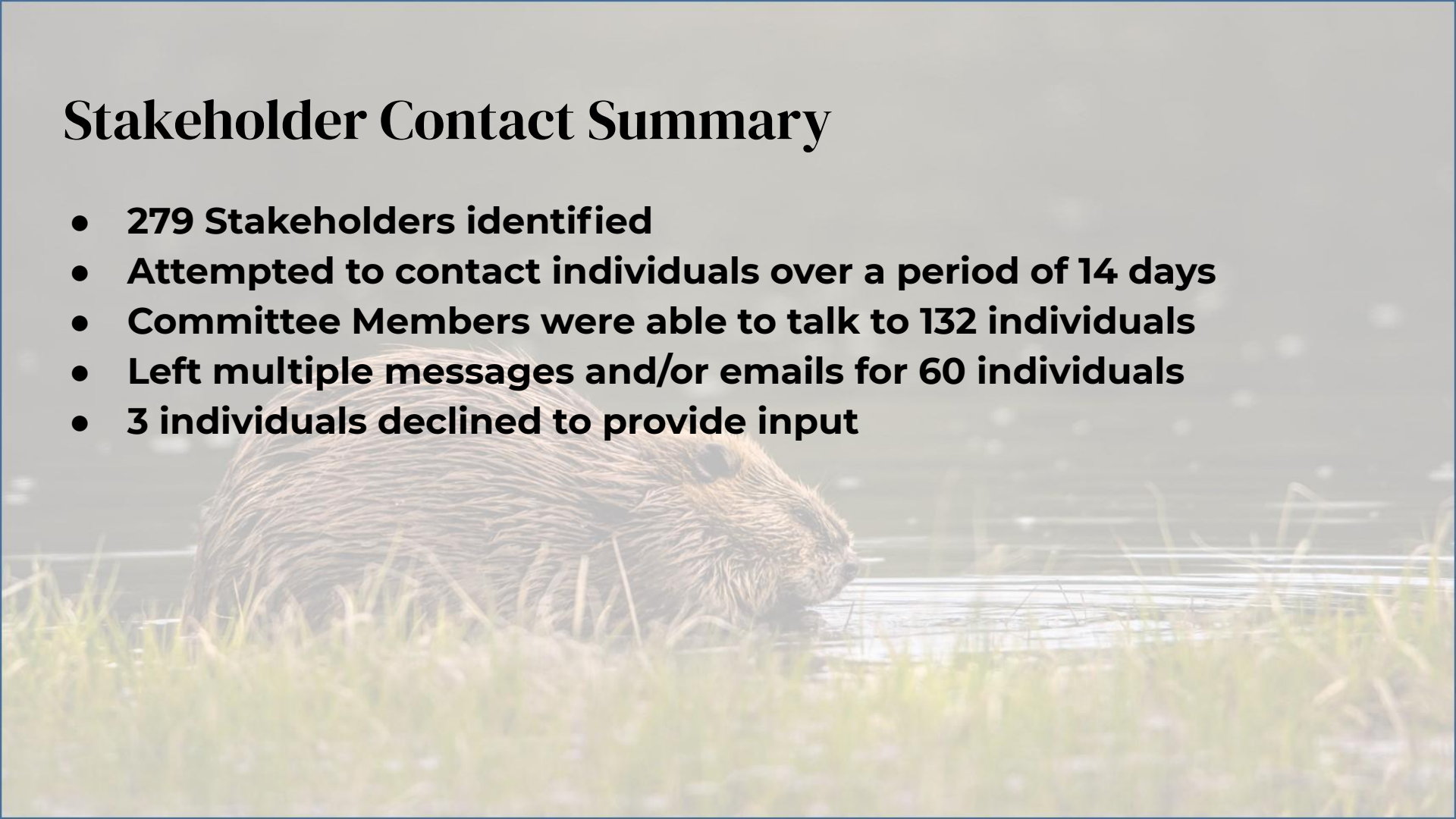
- Recent efforts in Fremont County
- Past discussions in Jackson
- Strategic plan engagement summary
- How to release your pet from a trap workshops



Photo credit: County 10

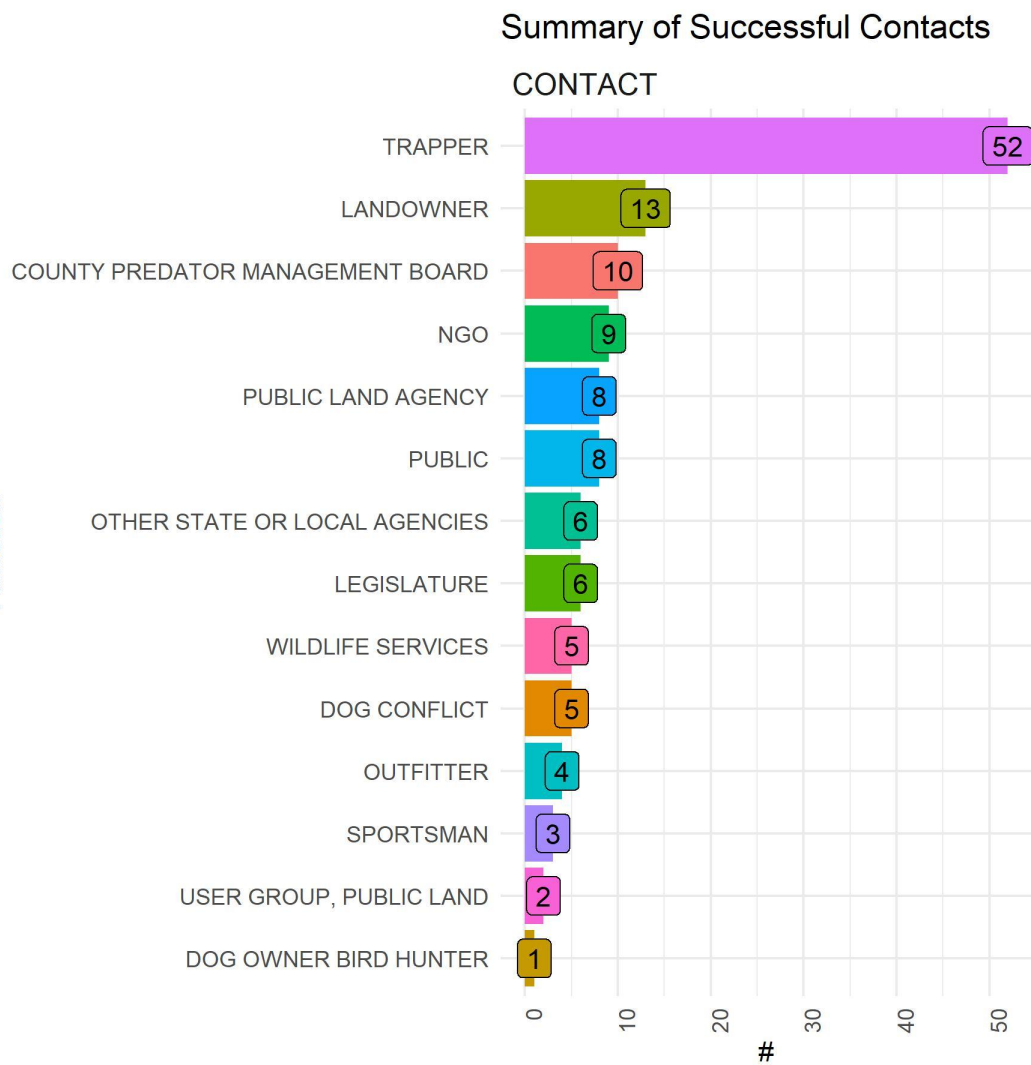
Stakeholder Contact Summary

- **279 Stakeholders identified**
- **Attempted to contact individuals over a period of 14 days**
- **Committee Members were able to talk to 132 individuals**
- **Left multiple messages and/or emails for 60 individuals**
- **3 individuals declined to provide input**

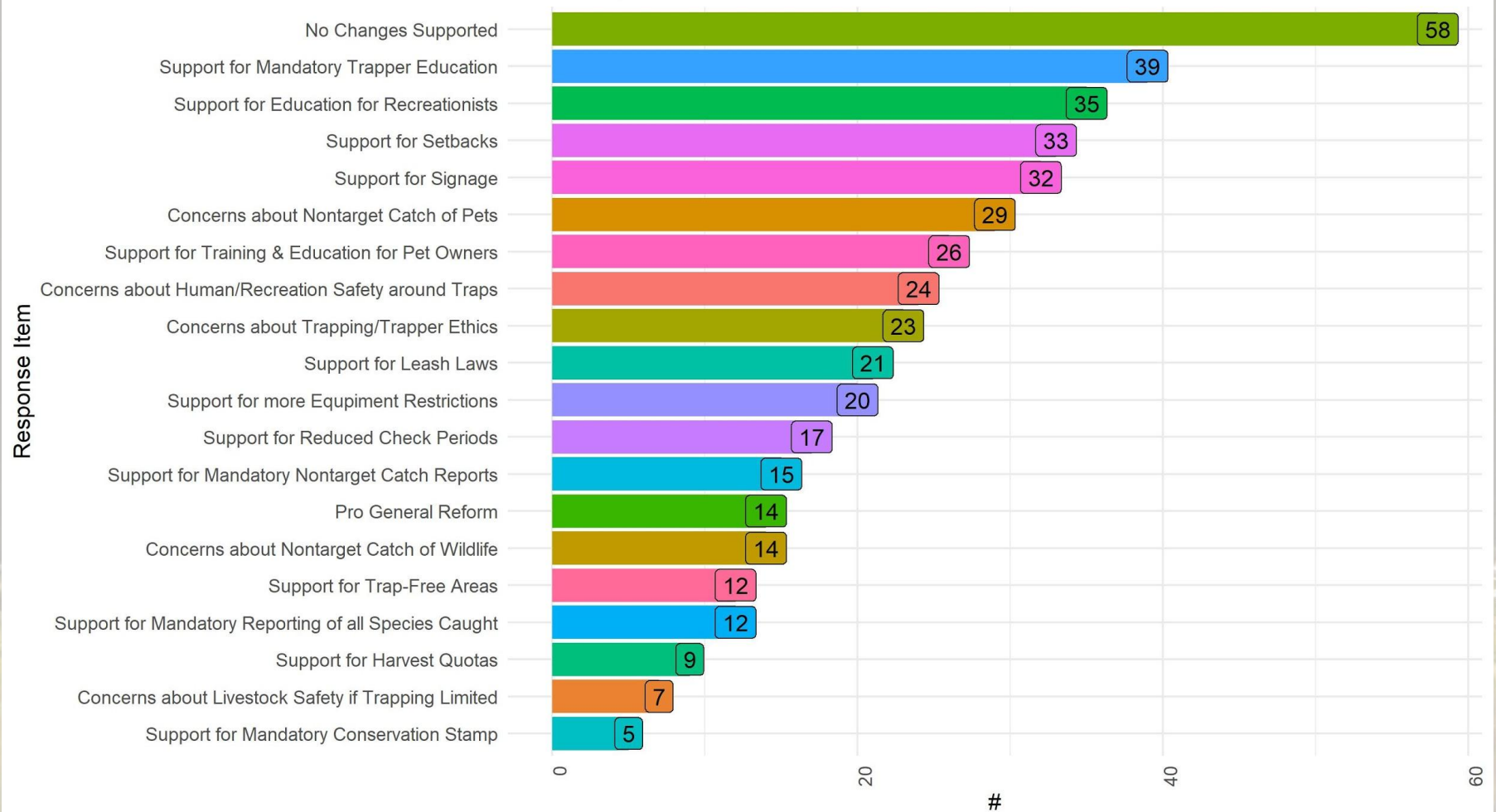


Stakeholder Contact Summary

Affiliation



Summary of Common Responses

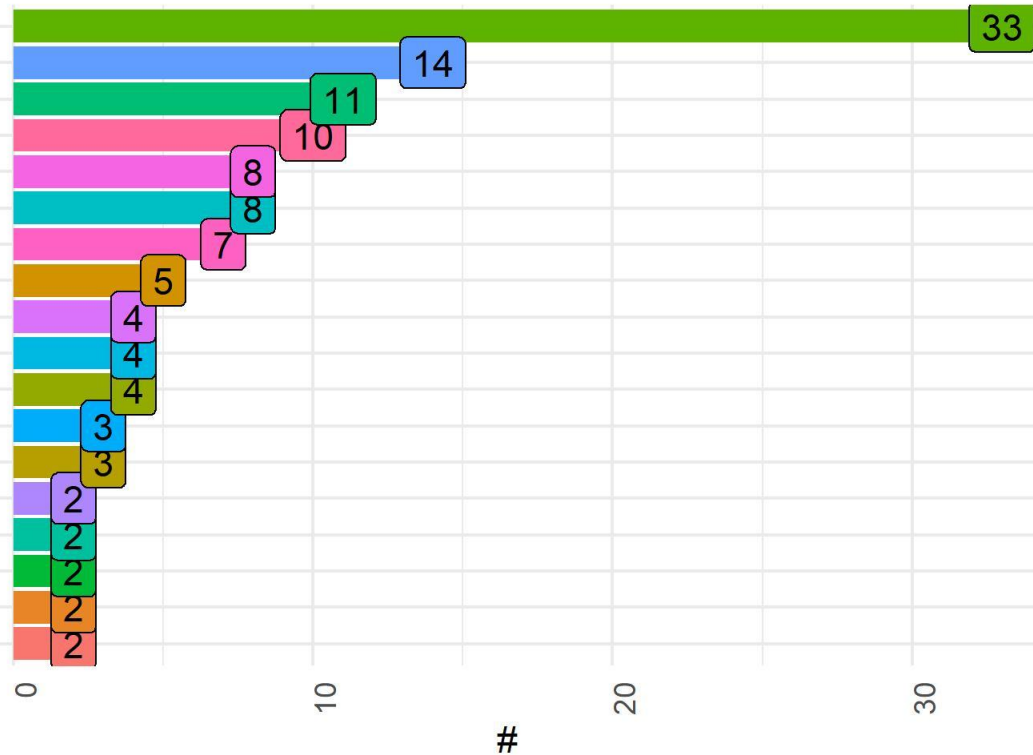


of Contacts = 132

TRAPPER

Response Item

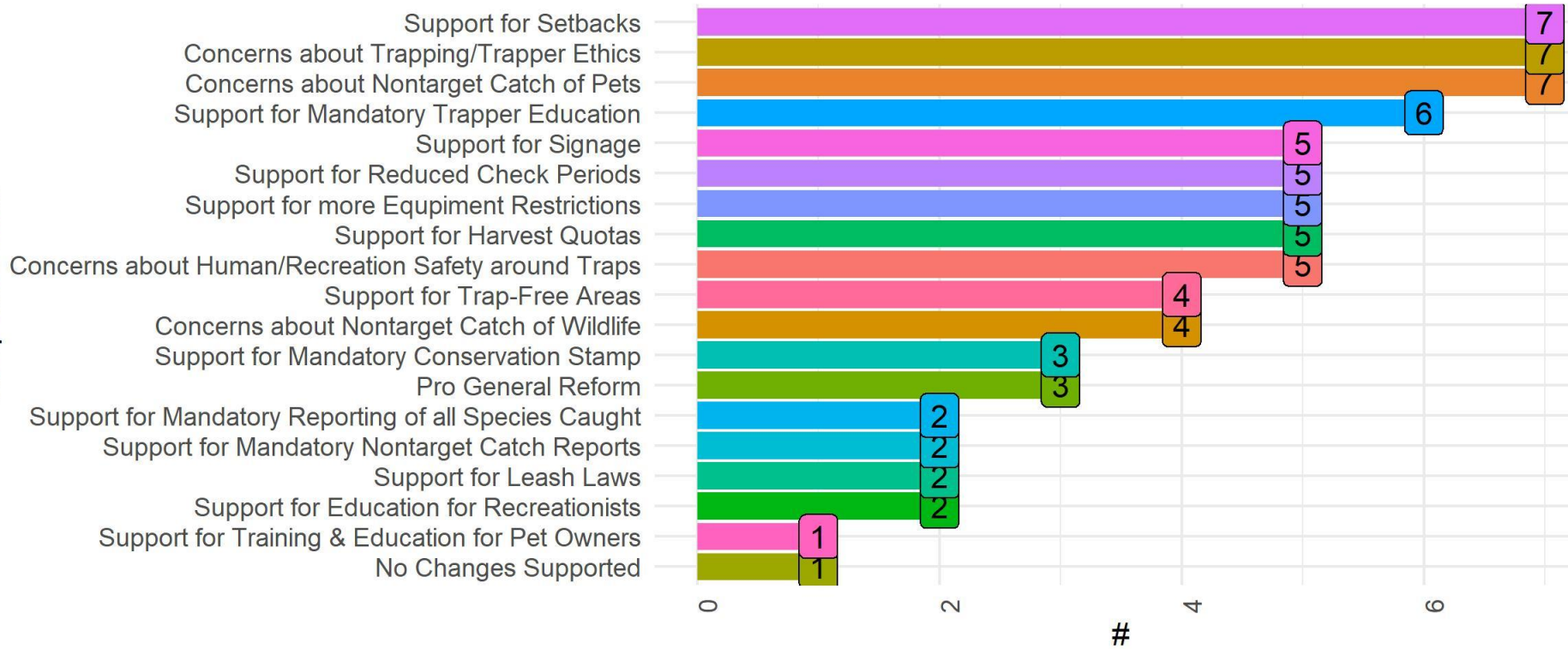
- No Changes Supported
- Support for Mandatory Trapper Education
- Support for Education for Recreationists
- Support for Training & Education for Pet Owners
- Support for Setbacks
- Support for Leash Laws
- Support for Signage
- Concerns about Nontarget Catch of Pets
- Support for Reduced Check Periods
- Support for Mandatory Nontarget Catch Reports
- Concerns about Trapping/Trapper Ethics
- Support for Mandatory Reporting of all Species Caught
- Concerns about Nontarget Catch of Wildlife
- Support for more Equipment Restrictions
- Support for Harvest Quotas
- Pro General Reform
- Concerns about Livestock Safety if Trapping Limited
- Concerns about Human/Recreation Safety around Traps



of Contacts = 52

NGO

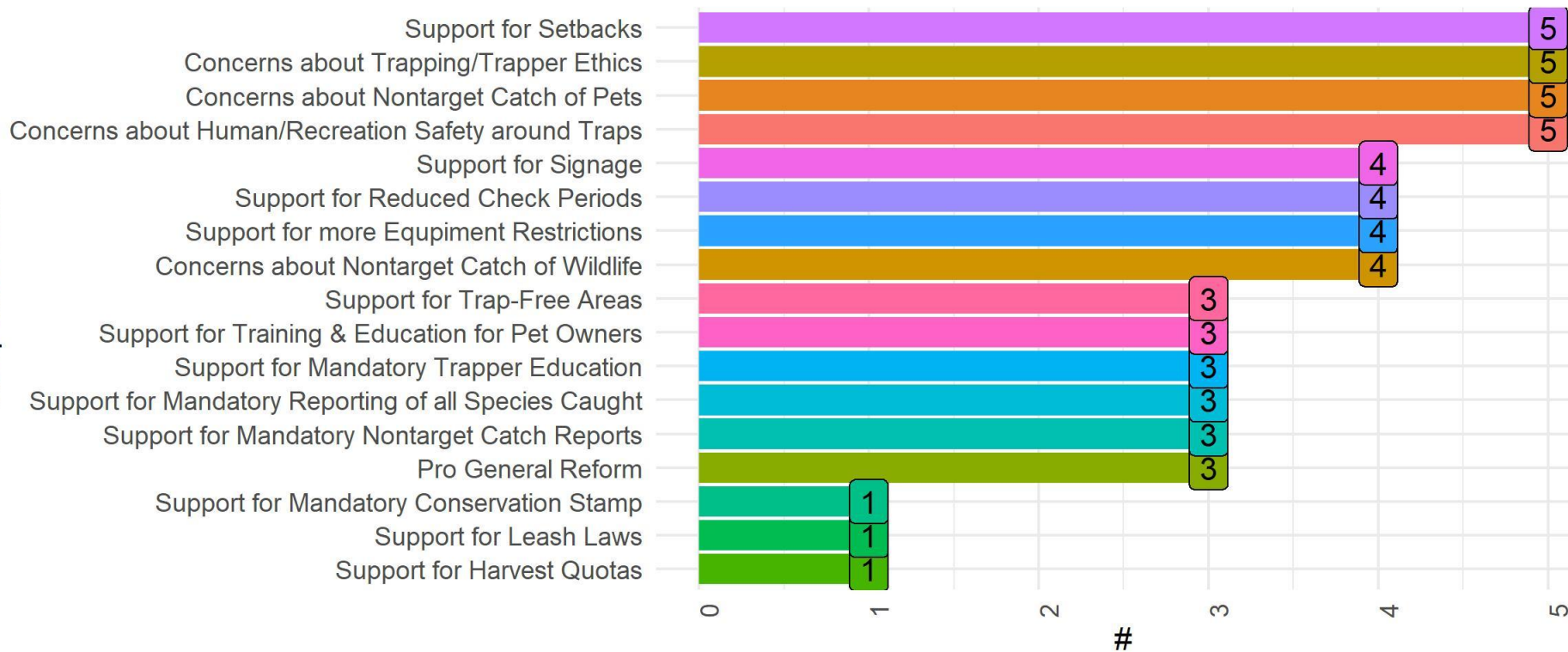
Response Item



of Contacts = 9

PUBLIC

Response Item



of Contacts = 8

Questions?

Next Steps

